

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

COMMERCE, LABOR, CIEP, EUR/SE

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P 161754Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MT

SUBJECT: USG/GOM BILATERAL TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 282188 AND PREVIOUS

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. THE EMBASSY WILL RECALL THAT IN LATE 1973 OR EARLY 1974
USG PROPOSED THAT BILATERAL COTTON AGREEMENT WITH GOM BE
DROPPED. GOM, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS NOT ALL OF
WHICH WERE RELATED TO TEXTILES, WISHED TO RETAIN AGREEMENT.
THAT BILATERAL WAS EXTENDED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO PENDING
BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS THIS QUARTER TO DETERMINE FUTURE
COURSE OF ACTION. USG NOW WISHES TO PROPOSE THAT THESE
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CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE IN VALETTA LATE AFTERNOON OF

FEBRUARY 3 AND MORNING OF FEBRUARY 4, 1975. EMBASSY REQUESTED APPROACH APPROPRIATE GOM OFFICIALS TO SEEK CONCURRENCE DATE AND VENUE AND CABLE RESPONSE BY COB JANUARY 20 WITH INFO TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR FOR JURICH.

2. FYI US POSITION IS THAT EXISTING BILATERAL SHOULD BE TERMINATED AND IN ITS PLACE A GENERAL CONSULTATION PROVISION SUBSTITUTED. WE HAVE DONE THIS WITH TWO OTHER

SMALL SUPPLIERS ALREADY, AND WE BELIEVE THIS FULLY MEETS MFA CRITERIA. THE CONSULTATION CLAUSE WOULD BE A FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND MALTA AND WOULD SIMPLY STATE THAT SHOULD MALTESE TEXTILE EXPORTS TO THE U.S. INCREASE TO SUCH AN EXTENT AS TO CAUSE OR THREATEN TO CAUSE MARKET DISRUPTION, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREE TO CONSULT ON THE PROBLEM. MALTA WOULD NOT HAVE TO ACCEED TO MFA FOR SUCH A CLAUSE TO BE OPERATIVE; YET IF MALTA DID WISH TO ACCEPT MFA, CLAUSE WOULD MEET SPIRIT AND LETTER OF MFA OBJECTIVES. END FYI.

3. BECAUSE OF TIGHT US TEXTILE NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE, DATES ABOVE ARE ONLY ONES AVAILABLE FOR SUCH CONSULTATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE AND ARE PROPOSED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER TRAVEL USDEL IMMEDIATELY BEFORE AND AFTERWARDS. HENCE, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF GOM COULD ACCEPT DATES AS PROPOSED. KISSINGER

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